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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 14, 2020, at 2 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, give us reverence for Your greatness. Guide our Senators around the pitfalls of their work, enabling them to have hearts sustained by Your peace. May they surrender their will to You as they trust You to guide their lives.

Lord, give them the wisdom to receive Your reproof, with the understanding that You chastise those whom You love for their good. Make their lives productive for the glory of Your Name.

Mighty God, protect the oppressed and helpless, preserving them from evil.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 12, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUNT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, I spoke about the disconnect between the discourse here in Washington and the pain and uncertainty that American families are feeling all across our country.

I spoke about the human toll of the Democrats' choice to play politics with billions and billions of aid and block it all over non-COVID-related wish list items.

It has been clear for some weeks that the Speaker of the House and the Senate Democratic leader are treating this crisis like an ordinary political game.

The New York Times says Speaker PELOSI is "playing hardball." POLIT-

ICO says she is "taking a huge risk . . . as she remains almost entirely unyielding in her demands."

More than 160,000 Americans have been killed by the worst infectious disease outbreak in more than a century. More than 16 million Americans are out of work. An entire school year for our kids is in limbo, but Democrats are playing political games like this were some run-of-the-mill typical negotiation.

Speaker PELOSI's own Democratic House Members call her proposal "Washington gamesmanship," "partisan gamesmanship," and "playing politics." Those are House Democrats I am quoting on the House Democratic bill.

Yesterday, literally a few minutes after I said on the floor that Democrats should stop treating this crisis like a game, the Democratic leader came to the floor to talk about who "ran down the clock," who "tossed up an air ball," and who "subbed themselves out of the game."

So, look, the Democrats aren't taking this as a serious issue. They aren't acting like this is serious, and the American people are hurting in the meantime.

Let's get outside the beltway and listen to how this crisis has impacted real American families and how the Democrats' stonewalling continues to hurt them.

Since we passed the CARES Act, I have been visiting healthcare facilities in my home State of Kentucky—places like St. Claire's Healthcare in Morehead and King's Daughters Medical

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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